



# Iowa General Assembly

## 2008 Committee Briefings

Legislative Services Agency – Legal Services Division

<http://www.rio.iowa.gov/index.html>.

### REBUILD IOWA ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Dates: [November 17, 2008](#) | [November 6 & 7, 2008](#) | [October 1, 2008](#) | [September 2, 2008](#)  
[August 25 & 26, 2008](#) | [August 19, 2008](#) | [August 5, 2008](#) | [July 31, 2008](#) | [July 17, 2008](#)

**Purpose.** This compilation of briefings on legislative interim committee meetings and other meetings and topics of interest to the Iowa General Assembly, written by the Legal Services Division staff of the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency, describes committee activities or topics. The briefings were originally distributed in the Iowa Legislative Interim Calendar and Briefing. Official minutes, reports, and other detailed information concerning the committee or topic addressed by a briefing can be obtained from the committee's Internet page listed above, from the Iowa General Assembly's Internet page at <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/>, or from the agency connected with the meeting or topic described.

### REBUILD IOWA ADVISORY COMMISSION

November 17, 2008

**Background.** On November 17, 2008, the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission submitted the 120-day report to the Governor as required by Executive Order 7. In the report, the Commission made 12 recommendations with strategies for implementing each recommendation.

**1. Individual Services and Guidance.** Iowa will provide advice and support to individuals and families seeking assistance in making their way through the challenges of rebuilding their lives in a disaster case management framework that has ongoing, lasting organizational capacity and processes in place to be sustained during non-disaster times. The strategies include:

- Determining the long-term sustainability of and funding mechanisms for disaster case management capacity and systems.
- Determining the responsible coordinating entity during disaster and nondisaster times.
- Providing quality disaster case management services, with capacity to expand and transition to the types of services required by residents as they experience a prolonged recovery period.
- Developing and conducting a comprehensive evaluation of disaster case management services provided throughout the disaster of 2008 and recovery period and use those findings to adjust and enhance the system.
- Convening stakeholders in the many services and supports provided by case management to provide input and assistance to the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) in its planning for a system and infrastructure to maintain and improve case management through disaster and nondisaster times.
- Identifying options for ensuring continuity of training and procedures for disaster case management, allowing for adequate numbers of trained staff and/or volunteers prepared for immediate activation of the system.
- Reviewing and adjusting, if necessary, the trigger for activating the disaster case management system in light of the experiences of 2008 and the program evaluation findings.
- Engaging 211 and the Iowa Concern Hotline as integral features of the disaster case management system.
- Strongly consider establishing a system to supplement public health and health care capacity through activating students in health and human services education programs, including establishing disaster provisions for legal and regulatory flexibility related to scope of practice.

**2. Housing.** State and local governments will place a high priority on ensuring availability of adequate, affordable housing and the ability of individuals and families to rent or purchase those homes. The strategies include:

- Establishing state policy for development and redevelopment in floodplains that is linked with the statewide

floodplain and watershed management efforts.

- Providing guidance to individuals and developers.
- Providing funding and incentives to motivate private and nonprofit market production of housing at prices and standards of quality that meet long-term energy efficiency and sustainability goals.
- Providing gap funding to enable the production of affordable single-family homes and multifamily units.
- Incenting developers of new housing, homeowners, landlords, and others working with them to incorporate elements of universal design into dwellings and incorporate elements of livability and walkability, when feasible, for areas of new and rebuilt housing.
- Incorporating elements of energy efficiency, sustainable and green building, and smart growth in housing repair, redevelopment, and development and promoting energy efficiency rebates and other incentive programs.
- Supporting local long-term recovery groups' identification of housing repair and production needs and efforts.
- Tracking and monitoring development and return of housing stock to affected areas and providing regular updates on the housing status, including analysis of the types of housing, location relative to hazard risk areas (including floodplains), affordability, and other data relevant to decision making and priorities for housing production.
- Reviewing state and local policies that may expedite action in times of a presidential disaster declaration.
- Undertaking efforts to create waivers, exceptions, or special conditions to benefit the response and recovery efforts for the next disaster.
- Providing modest assistance to stabilize family finances after the disruption of the disasters.

**3. Small Businesses and Nonprofit Organizations.** The state should provide incentives for Iowa's struggling small businesses, microenterprises, and nonprofits for restoration and rebuilding of their businesses from this disaster and future major disasters. The strategies include:

- Creating and supporting job and skills training and retraining vital to the economic growth of the state, as well as for businesses and Iowa's residents.
- As the state develops and recruits new industry, ensuring the availability of trained workers is essential.
- Seeking additional funds through federal appropriations designated for disaster economic transition training and retraining initiatives.
- Developing initiatives that integrate green building, smart growth measures, and energy efficiencies into the mainstream practices of rebuilding and in future construction.
- At the state level, developing a set of state contingency initiatives to provide support and assistance to small business, microenterprises, and nonprofits that would be activated in affected areas upon receiving a presidential disaster declaration and an order for activation from the Governor.
- At the state level, working with county and city leaders to develop a set of local contingency options to provide support and assistance to small business, microenterprises, and nonprofits that would be activated in affected areas upon receiving a presidential disaster declaration and an order for activation from the Governor.
- Developing and implementing contingency initiatives for water and conservation practices, including a cover crop program, to be activated in affected areas when a presidential disaster declaration is granted and the Governor issues an activation order.
- Adjusting the caps and rules for state historic preservation grants during times of disaster to provide greater access by organizations in affected areas.
- Providing assignable tax credits for developers of infrastructure and commercial properties to aid in recovery from this disaster.
- Waiving sales tax collections for materials purchased to rebuild Iowa's small businesses, microenterprises, and nonprofits.
- Developing a handbook outlining the initiatives identified and eligible for activation according to established policy.

**4. Infrastructure Investments.** The state should lead in planning, establishing expectations statewide, and securing funding for infrastructure repair, rebuilding, or construction. The strategies include:

- Completing a comprehensive infrastructure plan, including transportation, to provide strategic direction for infrastructure investments.
- Developing state policy regarding incorporation of smart development principles, green building practices, energy efficiency measures, universal design, and livability appropriately into infrastructure initiatives.

- Developing state guidance for incorporating safe rooms and other mitigation measures when constructing various types of public and private structures.
  - Supporting local assessment of landfill capacity and projected future requirements in light of the demand created by exceptional amounts of damage debris.
  - Providing personnel infrastructure to fill gaps in statewide capacity that are negatively impacting recovery at the state and local levels, e.g., DNR permitting, dam inspections, water testing, mental health, and public health surveillance.
- 5. Government Flexibility.** The state should identify, create, and sustain funding options and provide flexibility for local and state governments to assist in rebuilding an even better Iowa. The strategies include:
- At the state level, developing a set of state contingency initiatives to provide flexibility for local and state governments that would be activated in affected areas upon receiving a presidential disaster declaration and an order for activation from the Governor.
  - Creating a statewide disaster contingency fund available to cities, counties, and public educational institutions as a gap funding source for future disasters or, as an alternative, allowing access to the state's reserve funds for these same purposes.
  - Raising the current bond cap for local governments.
  - Allowing local bond referendum vote percentages for passage to be 50 percent plus one for affected areas in a declared presidential disaster area.
  - At the state level, leading an effort with county and city leaders to develop a set of local contingency options to provide flexibility for local governments that would be activated in affected areas upon receiving a presidential disaster declaration and an order for activation from the Governor.
- 6. Local Emergency Management.** The state must invest in local emergency management agencies for the central coordination function and work in all areas of emergency management – preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation – to achieve the baseline capacity needed to keep Iowa safer from future disasters. The strategies include:
- Supporting and assisting local emergency management agencies in expanding their capacity to perform the full scope of local emergency management responsibilities.
  - Seeking a specific plan from the Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA) on how best to support and fund local emergency management agencies so all counties meet minimal capacity and grant eligibility criteria.
  - Seeking resources to adequately fund and support work and activities of the local emergency management agencies.
  - Participating with IEMA or other stakeholders to compile a summary of the required and expected responsibilities of the emergency management coordinator position to include but not limited to statutory requirements, and compile information that demonstrates the capacity level of each county to fulfill these requirements.
  - Participating with IEMA to evaluate and determine an appropriate strategy for ensuring local emergency management has the capacity to fulfill its responsibilities to the citizens of its jurisdiction and the entire state.
  - Participating with IEMA in a public education initiative to emphasize the critical role and value of local emergency management in and for every local jurisdiction in Iowa.
  - Participating with stakeholder organizations to encourage and promote membership and conduct enrollment in the Iowa Mutual Aid Compact.
  - Strongly encouraging school districts, area education agencies, preschools, and institutions of higher education to participate in their local coordinated mitigation plan and suggest membership in the Iowa Mutual Aid Compact as a best practice.
- 7. Quality of Life Strategies.** The state should ensure policy and programs that sustain community identity, quality of life, and cultural heritage. The strategies include:
- Undertaking a marketing initiative to show that Iowa continues to share its cultural heritage, conduct business, educate residents, and enjoy Iowa's quality of life.
  - Developing a strategy for technical assistance and support of Iowa's cultural and historic institutions throughout recovery.
  - Finding alternative spaces for displaced cultural organizations and artists, and assist with the costs of acquiring those spaces.
  - Increasing the support of public art associated with construction of new and damaged buildings as well as

maintenance of projects.

- Establishing a greater state capacity to provide direct technical assistance and training for records management, preservation, and storage.
- Using Iowa's rivers and spaces as an asset to the community and state.

**8. Integrated Planning.** The state will lead in developing guidance and support for integrated, regional planning to address recovery and leverage multijurisdictional strengths for ongoing initiatives. The strategies include:

- Providing seed resources and technical assistance for comprehensive regional planning.
- Engaging public, private, and nonprofit sectors in multijurisdictional planning.
- Working with the Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC) to assess each Council of Government's (COG) capacity to complete long-term recovery and regional planning, seeking additional resources on behalf of the COGs to close gaps in capacity as an investment in regional planning.
- Strongly consider establishing a state resource devoted to integrating program and planning functions.

**9. Floodplain and Watershed Management.** The state will move state policy forward and lead the discussion with regional and local interests on floodplain and watershed management. The strategies include:

- Providing funding and technical support to responsible regional and local entities and agencies to ensure existing floodplain management and hazard mitigation infrastructure located in Iowa is regularly inspected and maintained.
- Developing and adopting a core or base-level land use policy to protect Iowans from the impacts of flooding, based on current data and with involvement of local governments in the process.
- Forming a multiagency work group including representatives from regional watersheds and other key stakeholders to advise the state's initiatives in floodplain and watershed management.
- Seeking opportunities to complete watershed studies for the primary watersheds across the state, leverage federal funding, and provide data and information by which strategic and planning decisions can be based.
- Taking the lead, providing technical assistance, and supporting communities and regions in developing local land use policies and practices to support floodplain management and hazard mitigation.
- Taking the lead in and providing incentives and resources for communities within the watershed regions of Iowa to convene in a regional approach to floodplain planning and management.
- Convening federal, local, and state program leaders with responsibilities for all related programs, from transportation infrastructure to recreational sites, to identify and align program requirements and coordinate their impact on the floodplain, again most effectively implemented within a watershed area.
- Providing incentives to property owners to encourage water retention.
- Developing and promoting urban practices that reduce storm water issues.

**10. Floodplain Mapping.** The state will complete floodplain mapping for the entire state using state-of-the-art technology. The state will pursue and implement the mapping process and related activities as expeditiously as is reasonable and practical. The strategies include:

- Continuing its expedited planning for completion of floodplain mapping and establish guidelines for maintenance and updates of floodplain maps in the future.
- Funding the remaining components to complete the floodplain mapping process, including the aerial photography and delineation of the floodplain boundaries for Iowa rivers and streams.
- Seeking and leveraging nonstate funds for as much of the floodplain mapping process as possible.
- Funding and requiring development of hydrologic modeling using these new data as a tool for floodplain management and for state and local decision making.
- Assessing, updating, and installing the necessary gauges in the rivers to better track and respond to real-time river levels.
- Developing a statewide policy on smart development, including policy related to development within a floodplain.
- Promoting use of the floodplain data and making it available to the public over the Internet.
- Developing a public education initiative around issues of floodplain mapping, what it means to individuals, flood insurance, and guidance on making wise choices.
- Working with organizations to develop and offer training for public officials on floodplain mapping and application of the data.
- Working with local communities and providing current information to assist them in making wise choices about

participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

- Reviewing standard private homeowner insurance policies to identify and determine how to address issues of exclusions for such incidents as sewer back-up and will develop a means of informing and educating the public of associated risks from those standard exclusions.

**11. Rebuild Iowa Office Roles and Responsibilities.** The state must formalize the RIO and associated responsibilities related to the 2008 disaster recovery. The strategies include:

- Affirming the role of the RIO to provide leadership in Iowa's recovery from the tornadoes, storms, and floods of 2008.
- Ensuring transparency in the recovery process.
- Developing strategic policy for recovery in cooperation with state agency partners and coordinating policy activities of recovery and rebuilding.
- Providing a link and clearinghouse function for information about recovery efforts.
- Providing leadership in recovery relationships, activities, and initiatives with local governments.
- Evaluating and reporting on the progress and recovery from the disaster of 2008, recognizing the substantial completion of recovery will lead to the close of the RIO.

**12. Communications and Outreach.** All involved agencies, governments, and interested parties should promote and support communications and outreach initiatives to educate and support Iowans as they recover and plan for future disasters. The strategies include:

- Providing information to the public on a regular basis about the status and progress of recovery, such as in the areas of housing, business and industry, and infrastructure.
- Providing Iowans access to assistance through public and targeted messages to inform Iowans of the availability of such programs as disaster case management services or Jumpstart for housing or small business assistance.
- After a disaster, informing the public regarding emerging public health issues.
- Incorporating such practices as smart development, retaining water where it falls in urban and rural areas, universal design, livable communities for people of all ages and abilities, energy efficiency, and other lifestyle issues.
- Designing and implementing a communication plan, educating the public on the importance of such personal practices as constructing a safe room in new buildings, safeguarding and preserving vital and essential records, understanding individual risk factors, and accepting personal responsibility for one's safety.
- The state taking the lead in explaining and educating Iowans about locating in or near floodplains so they can make informed decisions. The state should also develop and deliver broad educational messages about NFIP and private flood insurance and how to decide if it is necessary in each individual case.

**Report Available.** A copy of the 120-day report can be found at:

[http://rio.iowa.gov/assets/RIO\\_120\\_DAY\\_REPORT.pdf](http://rio.iowa.gov/assets/RIO_120_DAY_REPORT.pdf).

Rebuild Iowa Office Internet Page: <http://rio.iowa.gov/>.

*LSA Monitors:* Tim McDermott, Legal Services, (515) 281-8090; John Pollak, Legal Services, (515) 281-3818; Deborah Helsen, Fiscal Services, (515) 281-6764; Mary Shipman, Fiscal Services, (515) 281-4617; Sue Lerdal, Fiscal Services, (515) 281-7794; Dave Reynolds, Fiscal Services, (515) 281-6934.

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## REBUILD IOWA ADVISORY COMMISSION

November 6 and 7, 2008

**Background.** The Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission met in West Des Moines for purposes of developing a 120-day report which must be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly pursuant to Executive Order 7.

**Report Development and Release.** The Commission reviewed the recommendations included in the 45-day report as well as a condensed report of the meetings of the task forces. The Commission decided to build on all of the recommendations included in the 45-day report and add recommendations relating to infrastructure and the ongoing role and responsibilities of the Rebuild Iowa Office. These reports may be accessed on the Internet from the <Resources> and <Reports> links via the Internet page listed at the end of this briefing.

The Commission will receive a preliminary draft of the report on Wednesday, November 12, and will conduct a telephone conference call on Thursday, November 13, for purposes of finalizing the report. The report will be publicly released on Monday, November 17.

**Future Role of the Commission.** The Commission discussed the future role of the Commission following the public release of the 120-day report. The Commission will continue to meet quarterly and will receive regular updates from the Rebuild Iowa Office regarding the office's activities.

*LSA Monitors:* Tim McDermott, Legal Services, (515) 281-8090; John Pollak, Legal Services, (515) 281-3818; Deborah Helsen, Fiscal Services, (515) 281-6764; Mary Shipman, Fiscal Services, (515) 281-4617; Sue Lerdal, Fiscal Services, (515) 281-7794; Dave Reynolds, Fiscal Services, (515) 281-6934.

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Iowa 2008 Flood Resource Center Internet Page: <http://flood2008.iowa.gov/>.

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## REBUILD IOWA ADVISORY COMMISSION

October 1, 2008

**Background.** The Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) held a meeting in Des Moines for purposes of beginning the process of developing a report which must be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly. The report will be submitted to the General Assembly and the Governor on November 17 and is intended to provide long-term recommendations for rebuilding Iowa after the natural disasters that occurred during the spring and summer of 2008. The RIAC previously submitted a report to the Governor and the General Assembly in September regarding immediate short-term recommendations.

**Rebuild Iowa Office Activities Update.** Ms. Emily Hajek, Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO), provided testimony regarding the recent activities of the RIO. Ms. Hajek reported that many of the RIO staff members that were transferred from other state agencies to RIO have returned to their agencies of origin, but will remain somewhat involved in RIO's activities. Ms. Hajek stated that new employees are being hired to staff RIO.

**Long-Term Community Recovery Assistance Update.** Ms. Susan Dixon, RIO, provided testimony regarding long-term community recovery assistance. Ms. Dixon described a long-term community recovery assistance program where the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and RIO provide assistance to communities in identifying a long-term recovery vision for a community. Currently provided through FEMA, the program identified and assists the communities of Cedar Falls, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Parkersburg, Oakville, Iowa City, Coralville, Palo, Waverly, and New Hampton. Eventually, federal assistance will phase out and RIO will provide the assistance.

**Case Management Update.** Ms. Julie Struck, RIO, provided testimony regarding the case management efforts in communities. Ms. Struck explained the efforts of the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council in coordinating public and private resources for purposes of human services case management.

**Housing Update.** Mr. Joe O'Hern, RIO, provided testimony regarding recent activities involving housing, including the Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program. Mr. O'Hern stated that \$115 million in housing assistance has been already distributed by FEMA. Mr. O'Hern explained the Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program was created recently through the administrative rulemaking process. The program provides financial assistance in the form of forgivable loans to homeowners whose homes are located in federally declared disaster areas and have been damaged or destroyed by the natural disasters. The financial assistance may be used for down payment assistance, housing repair or rehabilitation, or interim mortgage assistance. Mr. O'Hern stated that one of the next obstacles in the housing area will be moving people from temporary housing to permanent housing.

**Economic Development Update.** Mr. Mike Tramontina, Director, Department of Economic Development, testified regarding the Jumpstart Small Business Assistance Program and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) moneys. Mr. Tramontina explained the Jumpstart Small Business Assistance Program, which provides financial assistance in the form of forgivable loans to small businesses that suffered physical damage or economic loss due to the natural disasters. The recipients must have been approved for and have signed a disaster loan from the United States Small Business Administration or from a state chartered or federally chartered financial institution. Mr. Tramontina stated that the state money used under the Jumpstart Small Business Assistance Program would eventually be supplemented with federal CDBG moneys. He stated that several more usage restrictions are attached to the federal moneys and, as a result, the federal moneys may take more time to distribute. Mr. Tramontina also stated that large employers will need some assistance and that administrative rules will be adopted to modify some existing programs to provide such assistance. He stated that the state has a strong interest in retaining large employers that have suffered physical damage or economic loss due to the natural disasters.



**Upcoming Schedule.** Each of the nine RIAC task forces will be meeting again between October 6 and October 24. Each task force will submit a report to RIAC by October 31. The next meeting of RIAC is scheduled for November 6 and 7, with a follow-up telephone meeting on November 13. RIAC will submit a report to the General Assembly and the Governor on November 17.

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Rebuild Iowa Office Internet Page: <http://rio.iowa.gov/favicon.ico>.

Iowa 2008 Flood Resource Center Internet Page: <http://flood2008.iowa.gov/>.

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## **REBUILD IOWA ADVISORY COMMISSION**

September 2, 2008

**Background.** On September 2, 2008, the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission submitted the 45-day report to the Governor as required by Executive Order 7.

**Report Overview.** In the report, the Commission provided an analysis of damage estimates, identified priority issues, and made recommendations for immediate action. The recommendations were divided into seven areas: providing a case management framework, housing, small business assistance, floodplain mapping, funding options, governmental coordination, and public health. Within each recommendation area, the Commission identified action steps.

**Case Management Framework.** For case management framework, the Commission recommended that the state do the following immediately:

- Establish a presence in localities affected by disasters to provide comprehensive, reliable, and prompt assistance to Iowans.
- Identify the long-term recovery groups actively providing services.
- Augment existing recovery groups' capacity and resources.
- Provide funding to link provider agencies into a single information network.

**Housing.** For housing, the Commission recommended the following immediately:

- State officials should assist and monitor the federal temporary housing program and be prepared to intercede with federal officials to ensure Iowa families have access to temporary housing resources.
- That the state encourage the use of the federal rental repair pilot program and assist the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in implementing the program.
- That the state should create financial tools to accelerate market response to the need to repair or replace a wide variety of housing, and implement standards to ensure such housing is energy-efficient, sustainable, and livable.

**Small Business Assistance.** For small business assistance, the Commission recommended that the state do the following immediately:

- Develop and implement a forgivable loan program for small businesses, microenterprises, and nonprofits.
- Waive the sales tax for such entities for the purchase of materials for reconstruction.
- Provide an investment tax credit for owners of commercial and industrial buildings that were damaged by the disasters.

**Floodplain Mapping.** For floodplain mapping, the Commission recommended that the state do the following immediately:

- Expediently secure funding for and complete statewide floodplain mapping using light detection and ranging (LiDAR) technology.
- Work with federal agencies to secure funding and support for completing floodplain mapping using LiDAR technology.
- Fund the remaining components to complete the floodplain mapping process.

**Funding Options.** For funding options, the Commission recommended that the state do the following immediately:

- Provide local governments with match moneys required by federal programs.
- Participate in a cost-share program with the federal government to undertake a cover-crop conservation

initiative.

- Scrutinize the current state budget to identify funds to realign in support of recovery efforts.
- Allow additional revenue-producing options for local governments in disaster areas.
- Work with local communities to seek gap funding necessitated by reduced property values and reduced property tax revenues.
- Use its credit to guarantee qualifying local recovery and rebuilding obligations.
- Allow expedited bid-letting and reconstruction processes for disaster recovery projects.
- Expand options within current state assistance programs, such as the Enterprise Zone Program, to extend eligibility criteria to include disaster-affected areas.
- Amend Iowa Code Chapter 384 to lengthen the local disaster loan repayment term to five years.

**Governmental Coordination.** For governmental coordination, the Commission recommended that the state do the following immediately:

- Leverage Iowa's critical needs to press for immediate release of federal funds for which the state is eligible.
- Investigate options for federal, state, and local payment processes to expedite the flow of funds.
- Create a statewide disaster contingency fund and make it available to local governmental entities as an immediate source of gap funding.

**Public Health.** For public health, the Commission recommended that the state do the following immediately:

- Provide adequate resources and staff capacity to replace exhausted resources and augment public health services to residents.
- Ensure mental health services are available statewide in local communities and that such services receive adequate funding support.
- Work with local organizations to monitor demands on critical public health and health programs and provide resources to ensure adequate capacity.

**Ongoing and Subsequent Action.** The Commission also made recommendations for ongoing and subsequent action. The Commission recommended that the state do the following on an ongoing basis subsequent to addressing the immediate action items:

- Continue to provide advice and support to individuals seeking assistance through a comprehensive case management framework.
- Ensure availability of adequate, affordable housing.
- Provide incentives for rebuilding and restoring small businesses, microenterprises, and nonprofits.
- Complete floodplain mapping for the entire state.
- Identify, create, and sustain funding options and provide flexibility for the state and local governments to assist in rebuilding.
- Invest in local emergency management agencies for the central coordination function and work in all areas of emergency management.
- Support integrated, regional planning.
- Promote and support communications and outreach initiatives to educate and support Iowans as they recover and plan for future disasters.
- Lead the discussion with regional and local interests on floodplain and watershed management.
- Sustain community identity, quality of life, and cultural heritage.

**Internet Access to Report.** A copy of the 45-day report can be found at [http://rio.iowa.gov/resources/riac\\_45-day\\_report\\_09-2008.pdf](http://rio.iowa.gov/resources/riac_45-day_report_09-2008.pdf).

Rebuild Iowa Office Internet Page: <http://rio.iowa.gov/>.

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August 25 & 26, 2008

**Background.** The fifth meeting of the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) was held in Urbandale. The general purpose of the meeting was to develop a draft of the 45-day report, which must be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly by September 2.

**Report Status.** The commission reviewed the damage assessment findings and recommendations of each of its nine task forces and discussed the types of recommendations that should be included in the 45-day report. The commission will receive a draft of the report on Thursday, August 28, and will conduct a telephone conference call on Friday, August 29, for purposes of finalizing the report.

**Next Steps.** After the 45-day report is submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly, the task forces and the commission will continue to meet in order to prepare the comprehensive, long-term report which, according to Executive Order 7, must be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly not later than October 31, 2008.

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## REBUILD IOWA ADVISORY COMMISSION

August 19, 2008

**Background.** The fourth meeting of the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) was held in Cedar Falls. Prior to the meeting, RIAC and area legislators were taken on a tour of tornado- and flood-damaged areas in Parkersburg, New Hartford, Waterloo-Cedar Falls, and Waverly.

**Overview.** The general purpose of the meeting was to receive updates from three of the nine RIAC task forces. In addition to remarks from Governor Chet Culver and Lieutenant Governor Patty Judge, Congressman Bruce Braley addressed the task force. He noted that Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi had assured him that there will be consideration of legislation providing a second round of disaster relief supplemental appropriations when Congress reconvenes in September, and outlined previous congressional efforts to support disaster relief.

**Long-Term Recovery Planning Task Force.** The testimony was provided by the task force co-chairpersons, Ms. Carroll Reasoner of Cedar Rapids and Ms. Amy Truax of Parkersburg, along with Mr. A.J. Mumm, Polk County Emergency Management Coordinator. The task force deliberations focused on sustainable development and land use planning and the need for comprehensive planning. Aspects that should be incorporated in a comprehensive planning process include approaches that are multijurisdictional, multihazard, and multidisciplinary, that incorporate energy efficiency and sustainable development focuses, that identify cost-benefit analysis, and that encompass geographic regions along waterways.

**Floodplain and Hazard Mitigation Management Task Force.** The testimony was provided by Mr. Bill Bywater, Task Force Chairperson, and Ms. Barbara Lynch, representing the Rebuild Iowa Office and the Department of Natural Resources. Additional information was provided by Mr. David Miller, Administrator of the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division. Mr. Bywater emphasized the near-term importance of displaced citizens securing housing before the winter season begins and updating floodplain mapping, preferably using LiDAR (light detection and ranging) and other modern technology. Other priorities include addressing flood insurance barriers, the lack of public awareness concerning floodplains, the need to address agricultural land practices, land use requirements, zoning and building codes, regional and watershed planning, and levee siting and repair practices.

**Public Health and Health Care Task Force.** The testimony was provided by Ms. Linda Larkin, Task Force Chairperson; Mr. Tom Newton, Director of Public Health; Ms. Donna Harvey, Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging; and Dr. Mike Rosmann, AgriWellness, Inc. They emphasized the importance of providing behavioral health services during a crisis and following for those impacted by a disaster; monitoring the demands on critical public health services and meeting the demands; identifying policy barriers to using existing resources to meet demand and providing appropriate flexibility; working with local agencies to strengthen the health-related infrastructure for responding to current and future disasters; and providing for the broad health needs of individuals during disasters. The discussion

included immediate and long-term strategies such as providing case management services to assist those affected in navigating the system.

**Next Steps.** Commission Chairperson Major General Ron Dardis explained that the commission members will receive all of the task force reports for review over the upcoming weekend (August 23 and 24) in preparation for the full commission meeting on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, August 25 and 26, when the commission report will be finalized.

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## REBUILD IOWA ADVISORY COMMISSION

August 5, 2008

**Background.** The third meeting of the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) was held in Wapello. Prior to the meeting, RIAC was taken on a tour of flood-damaged areas in Wapello, Columbus Junction, and Oakville.

**Overview.** The general purpose of the meeting was to receive updates from three of the nine RIAC task forces.

**Cultural Heritage and Records Retention Task Force.** The testimony was provided by Ms. Cyndi Pederson, Director, Department of Cultural Affairs, and Mr. Gordon Hendrickson, State Archivist, Department of Cultural Affairs. Ms. Pederson stated that the department has been providing technical and financial assistance to disaster victims in the cultural heritage area. She stated that emergency money has been made available by the State Historical Society of Iowa and by the Iowa Arts Council. Ms. Pederson stated that responses to a voluntary survey of cultural organizations and individual artists have shown that 72 percent of the respondents were uninsured and 42 percent did not intend to file with FEMA. Mr. Hendrickson stated that both cities and counties had suffered losses to official records and that the department had been providing advice to these communities as well as working with the Iowa League of Cities and the Iowa State Association of Counties. Museums, libraries, and historical organizations had also suffered damage. Mr. Hendrickson stated that it is difficult to assess the damage to field office records, but that records in the State Records Center were protected during the flooding in Des Moines. Mr. Hendrickson stated that fast action to preserve records and artifacts damaged in a natural disaster is essential, but that analysis and inspection of damaged historic properties should be conducted over a period of time. Mr. Hendrickson emphasized the necessity for entities to adopt a records management program.

**Agriculture and Environment Task Force.** The testimony was provided by Mr. Harold Hommes, Bureau Chief, Agricultural Marketing Bureau, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and Mr. Richard Leopold, Director, Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Hommes reviewed the crop and grain damage in the state and stated that the full impact of the damage to the crops would not be known until harvest. He stated that at the height of the flooding, 10 percent of the corn acres and 20 percent of the soybean acres were yet to be planted or needed to be replanted. Mr. Hommes stated that livestock losses were somewhat less than expected. Mr. Hommes stated that damage to transportation infrastructure and processing plant damage will affect farmers' ability to market their products. Mr. Leopold stated that the current total estimated fiscal impact to the Conservation and Recreation Division is approximately \$12 million. Mr. Leopold broke the fiscal impact down by bureaus within the division. Mr. Leopold also suggested that flood plains should be remapped and that careful consideration should be made in locating rebuilt levee systems.

**Infrastructure and Transportation Task Force.** The testimony was provided by Mr. Mark Wandro, Executive Vice President, Snyder and Associates. Mr. Wandro provided preliminary damage estimates, if known, for transportation modes, water and wastewater systems, communications systems, utilities, landfills, public buildings, and trails and parks. Mr. Wandro provided recommendations that were mentioned during the task force meeting, including raising the bond cap, giving local governments more autonomy in creating revenue diversification, use of various funds to provide disaster assistance, use of tax credits to provide assistance, streamlining damage reporting systems, and exploring and expanding work with Iowa's federal delegation to leverage all possible funding sources.

Rebuild Iowa Office Internet Page: <http://rebuild.iowa.gov/office.html>.

Iowa 2008 Flood Resource Center Internet Page: <http://flood2008.iowa.gov/>.

*LSA Monitors:* Tim McDermott, Legal Services, (515) 281-8090; John Pollak, Legal Services, (515) 281-3818; Deborah Helsen, Fiscal Services, (515) 281-6764; Mary Shipman, Fiscal Services, (515) 281-4617; Sue Lerdal, Fiscal Services, (515) 281-7794; Dave Reynolds, Fiscal Services, (515) 281-6934.

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## REBUILD IOWA ADVISORY COMMISSION

July 31, 2008

**Background.** The second meeting of the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) was held in Cedar Rapids. Prior to the meeting, RIAC members were taken on a tour of flood-damaged areas in Cedar Rapids, Palo, Iowa City, and Coralville.

**Overview.** The general purpose of the meeting was to receive updates from three of the RIAC task forces.

**Listening Sessions.** Major General Ron Dardis, Adjutant General for the Iowa National Guard and chairperson of RIAC, identified the format for the listening sessions conducted by the Rebuild Iowa Office. He stated that there would be nine stations designated in a large room according to the task force areas of concern. At each station, support staff would be available to receive input and provide information. Major General Dardis stated that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance would be available in the same location.

**Task Force Testimony.** For each task force update, a co-chairperson for the task force first provided a brief summary of the activities undertaken by the task force followed by a testimony given by a member or members of the task force.

**Housing Task Force.** The testimony was provided by Mr. Bret Mills, Executive Director, Iowa Finance Authority. Mr. Mills stated that a recent federal law allowed for an additional \$11 billion in mortgage revenue bond authority for the states, of which Iowa will receive approximately \$100 million. While these moneys are typically intended for first-time homebuyers, the legislation allows for the easing of restrictions and limits on use of such moneys in federally declared disaster areas. Mr. Mills also discussed an affordable housing program developed in South Dakota. The program is a nine-month building trade certification program for state inmates which results in the construction of affordable housing.

**Economic and Workforce Development Task Force.** The testimony was provided by Mr. Mike Tramontina, Director, Department of Economic Development. Mr. Tramontina stated that a small business seeking disaster assistance from the federal Small Business Administration must first apply for and be denied assistance from FEMA.

Mr. Tramontina stated that Iowa does not currently have a program for disaster assistance to businesses. He suggested the creation of two new programs which would provide disaster assistance to small businesses under one program and to major employers under the other program. Mr. Tramontina pointed out that needs of the two groups of businesses are different since major employers are more likely to be insured against disasters. Mr. Tramontina stated that, while the Department of Economic Development has been able to identify \$10 million from the Grow Iowa Values Fund and from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) moneys, an additional \$15 million to \$20 million would likely be needed to fund the two programs. Mr. Tramontina stated that Iowa still has not been notified as to how much new CDBG moneys the state will be receiving and whether there will be any restrictions on the use of those moneys.

**Education Task Force.** The testimony was provided by Mr. Jeff Berger, Department of Education, and Mr. Doug True, Senior Vice President and Treasurer, University of Iowa.

Mr. Berger stated that the Department of Education is urging school districts to be both patient and flexible in trying to manage the enrollment issues associated with the disasters occurring in the state. Mr. Berger stated that 73 school districts, 2 area education agencies, and 5 community colleges have reported expenses in connection with weather-related events during the spring and summer of this year. Calculation of damage amounts have not been completed. In addition, 2500 students have been displaced.

Mr. True stated that the damage to Iowa State University was primarily to agricultural areas and outbuildings. The costs to the University of Northern Iowa were due to the use of residence halls as temporary housing. Mr. True stated that the damage estimate of \$232 million to the University of Iowa does not include flood mitigation costs or interruption of business costs. Mr. True stated that school will begin on time at the University of Iowa and stressed the need to address flood mitigation issues.

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## REBUILD IOWA ADVISORY COMMISSION

July 17, 2008

**Background.** The Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) is a 15-member commission appointed by the Governor pursuant to Executive Order #7 issued June 27, 2008. The Chairperson of RIAC is Major General Ron Dardis, Adjutant General for the Iowa National Guard. The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) is an office created under a Code Chapter 28E agreement pursuant to Executive Order #7. The executive director of the office is Lieutenant Governor Patty Judge.

**Overview.** Governor Chester Culver, Lieutenant Governor Judge, and Major General Dardis provided an overview of the goals and objectives of RIAC and RIO.

RIAC is charged with recommending policy to facilitate long-term recovery in the state, making recommendations to RIO, overseeing the activities of RIO, and assisting with the identification of strategic issues and broad-based recovery needs and priorities. Members of RIAC will serve as task force chairpersons which shall make recommendations to RIAC.

RIO is charged with coordinating state activities concerning the rebuilding effort; securing funding and other resources needed for the recovery, and establishing priorities and disbursement guidelines for any such funds received; establishing principles and policies for redevelopment; establishing timelines and benchmarks associated with the recovery effort; providing opportunities for public and business input; ensuring transparency in the recovery process; and speaking with one voice on behalf of the state. RIO is composed of staff from various state agencies.

**Task Forces.** Task forces were identified in the areas of housing, economic and workforce development, agriculture and environment, infrastructure and transportation, floodplain management and hazard mitigation, education, public health and health care, long-term recovery planning, and records and cultural heritage. The task forces, which include legislators in the membership, will meet during the last week of July and the first week in August. Task force reports to RIAC are due August 18.

**RIAC Meetings.** RIAC is scheduled to hold meetings in Cedar Rapids on July 31, in Wapello County on August 5, and in Cedar Falls on August 19. RIAC is required to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly by September 2. The report is to include an assessment of the impact of the floods and tornadoes on the people, schools, businesses, and private and public infrastructure with recommendations for initial steps to be taken by the General Assembly and the executive branch to assist in the recovery.

**Listening Sessions.** Listening sessions to receive public input are planned for Monday, August 11, in Red Oak and Tuesday, August 12, in Fort Dodge.

**Testimony.** RIAC received testimony from Mr. Vince Lintz, Deputy Director, Department of Economic Development, Mr. David Miller, Administrator, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, and Mr. William Vogel, federal coordinating officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Mr. Lintz testified that the economic impact of the floods and tornadoes is still being determined but that issues are being identified. There are questions regarding the relocations of some businesses, whether the relocation of people will cause a worker shortage, and significant infrastructure damage which will affect business. He stated that nonprofit entities and cultural attractions were hard hit. Mr. Lintz discussed the role of community development block grant moneys in the recovery effort and the limitations of other moneys available to the department.

Mr. Miller and Mr. Vogel discussed the role of FEMA as not making people whole after a disaster, but to assist in getting communities back on their feet after a disaster. They stated that initial, incomplete damage assessments were made as a mechanism to get the flow of federal moneys initiated. They stated that a more comprehensive damage assessment is currently being conducted and it is this comprehensive damage assessment that is critical in identifying needs for federal funding purposes.

### Contact Information:

Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO)

4459—121st St.

Urbandale, IA 50323

(515) 242-5004

Internet Page: <http://rebuild.iowa.gov/office.html>

Iowa 2008 Flood Resource Center Internet Page: <http://flood2008.iowa.gov/>

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## REBUILD IOWA ADVISORY COMMISSION (RIAC) TASK FORCES – LSA MONITORS

<b>Task Force</b>	<b>Legal Services Staff</b>	<b>Fiscal Services Staff</b>	
Housing	Michael Duster	Ron Robinson, Shawn Snyder	
Infrastructure	Rachele Hjelmaas	Marcia Tannian, Mary Beth Mellick	
Economic and Workforce Development	Tim Whipple	Ron Robinson, Shawn Snyder	
Public Health and Health Care	Patty Funaro	Jess Benson, Phil Kauffman	
Agriculture and Environment	Ann Ver Heul	Deb Kozel, Deborah Helsen	
Education	Kathy Hanlon	Robin Madison, Dwayne Ferguson	
Flood Plain Management and Hazard Mitigation	Doug Adkisson	Deb Kozel, Jennifer Acton	
Records Retention and Management	Rick Nelson	Doug Wulf, Beth Lenstra	
Cultural Heritage	Rick Nelson	Doug Wulf, Beth Lenstra	
Long-Term Recovery Planning	Ed Cook	Dave Reynolds, Mary Beth Mellick	Task Forc

e meetings are planned for late July and early August. The meeting schedule can be accessed from the <Upcoming Events> link on the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) Internet Page: <http://rebuild.iowa.gov/office.html>.

LSA Monitors can be contacted at the Legislative Services Agency at (515) 281-3566.

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